NITE-TIMES NEWS

CHICAGO AREA TIMEX USERS GROUP

C.A.T.U.G. CLUB OFFICERS

Here is the list of 1991 club officers and how to contact them.
The club has two strong SIGS, SPECTRUM/TS2068 and QL. If you
have questions about either of these fine machines or even the
ZX81/TS1000/TS1500 call one of the officers.   C=312, S=708.

POSITION	NAME	PHONE	PRIMARY FUNCTION
President	Nazir Pashtoon	S439-1679	The buck stops here...
Vice-President	Steve Cooper	S968-3553	Meeting Planning, etc.
Secretary	Al Feng	S971-0495	Records and Reporting
Treasurer	Frank Mills	S544-1918	Dues and Purchasing
Editor	Bob Swoger	S576-8068	Newsletter, BBS, etc.

𝕹𝖎𝖙𝖊-𝕿𝖎𝖒𝖊𝖘 Information

𝕿𝖍𝖊 𝕹𝖎𝖙𝖊-𝕿𝖎𝖒𝖊𝖘 𝕹𝖊𝖜𝖘 is the newsletter of the Chicago Area Timex Users Group. For an annual fee of $12.00 you can become a CATUG member with full membership privileges. Send your dues to:

    CATUG TREASURER FRANK MILLS
    417 S 47th AVE
    BELLWOOD IL 60104

The Chicago Area Timex Users Group is pleased to exchange newsletters with other Timex and Sinclair supporting users groups at no charge. Send all newsletter requests to:

    CATUG EDITOR BOB SWOGER
    613 PARKSIDE CIRCLE
    STREAMWOOD IL 60107-1647

If you desire to reprint any articles that appear here, please provide credit to the author and this newsletter.

We encourage your user group to copy this newsletter and distribute it at your regular meetings to your members free of any charge as we believe that this will encourage better meeting attendance. If you are a user group that feels as we do, please let us know in your newsletter so that we might do this for our members and keep our attendance up.

Articles originating from our group may be downloaded from our BBS and reprinted.

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE

    Al Feng
    John Shepard
    Frank Mills
    Bob Swoger, K9WVY

CLUB MEETINGS

The Chicago Area Timex Users Group meets on the THIRD Saturday of each month at the home of our meeting coordinator Steve Cooper in Downers Grove, Illinois from 1:00 to 5:00 PM. Steve's home is lovingly called the CLUB HOUSE and is located at 1300 Maple Street in Downers Grove just 2 blocks southwest of the Downers Grove Public Library. Steve should be contacted evenings at 708/968-3553. to confirm the meeting schedule.

When visiting be careful of the Dutch Dooooooooorrrrrrrr.......

TREASURY NOTES

The balance as of May 1 1992 is $296.55. Our current paid membership stands at 15.

Frank Mills, Treasurer
Chicago Area Timex Users Group

SECRETARY'S NOTEPAD

MORE CAT MINTS

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Streamwood, March 21, 1992 -- The Ides of March found Steve having a mishap on the "club house" driveway. Consequently, CATUG's March meeting was held at the temporary venue which is also the official postal drop for CATUG.

All CATUG members would like to thank Annette & Bob Swoger for their hospitality.

As a result of the surprisingly inclement weather, some regular attendees failed to arrive at the meeting despite intentions otherwise.

After some spirited debate, all the CATUG members in attendance (Nazir, Jim, John and son Jeff, Abed, Al, Larry, and Bob) voted to conditionally support T/SNUG for another year. The related funds will be transferred from Frank (CATUG Treasurer) to Abed (T/SNUG Treasurer) at the appropriate time.

The feature demo which Bob had an opportunity to demonstrate was Larry Kenny's LKDOS MAXCOM telecommunications program.

Of course, for those who know, I do not do MAXCOM justice when

I refer to it as simply a tele-communications program because it is much more than that.

For all of you 2068 users, if the LKDOS RAM disk isn't enough reason to acquire LKDOS, then MAXCOM (as apparently amended by Bob Swoger) should be the deciding factor.

Essentially, multiple MAXCOMed 2068s can communicate as either nodes in a peer-peer network, or one may implement a WAN (Wide Area Network) utilizing one or many file-servers to one or many clients.

As I understand it, the trans-mission speed is dependent on your MODEM; so, if you are in a hurry, modify your 2050 to a "pure" serial port, and get a Hayes compatible 1200 or 2400+ Baud modem (and of course, insist that the other party have an equally fast modem).

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Streamwood, April 18, 1992 -- In a moment of collective con-fusion, four 2068 users (Abed, Frank, Steve and Bob) gathered at Bob's house for a SIG (spe-cial interest group) meeting.

Again, MAXCOM was demonstrated for those who did not have an opportunity to see it in March. Communication was made with Jay Shepard in Iowa, but some phone line problems apparently arose due to bad weather (heavy rain) in Iowa.

In March, Bob had linked his 2068 with Abed's 2068 (a com-munity or two over from where Bob lives) and the 2068 of Don Lambert (Auburn, IN). Of course, Bob, Abed, and Don have LKDOS on their TS2068s.

Steve seemed unimpressed by MAXCOM, and declares that he is in the market for a second JLO interface; particularly, if the price is right.

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Downers Grove, April 25, 1992 --- For whatever reason (the "good" weather, relief from the annual IRS ritual sacrifice, et

cetera), eleven people were in attendance at this meeting. In addition to the normal gathering, Bobbie Donaldson and Leo managed to attend.

John & Bobbie Donaldson brought a lost treasure they had found at a local book store:

Blood Libels. Clive Sinclair. New York: Farrar, Strauss, Giroux, 1986.

Glancing at the inside of the book, one also finds "by Clive Sinclair":

Bibliosexuality (1973)
Hearts of Gold (1979)
Bedbugs (1982)
The Brothers Singer (1983)

Look for these titles in your local book store, or ask your local, public librarian.

Because the (Milwaukee) SMUG group is considering suspension of its newsletter, the matter of incorporation within either the NITE-TIMES NEWS or ZXir QLive Alive! was discussed.

With the understanding that many editors feel constrained by time and/or written contri-butions, it has been suggested that ZQA! become an umbrella publication wherein the various user groups who no longer feel they can support individual publication yet would like to show the rest of the Timex/Sinclair Community that they are viable. Recent incorporation of Andre Baune's excellent ZX-91 newsletter as an addendum to ZQA! may be taken as a possible model of how this would be implemented.

While this may not be a bad idea, Al Feng suggested that user groups who are experiencing difficulty in producing a newsletter on a monthly schedule first explore the idea of publishing their current newsletter either as bi-monthly (as with the NTN) or even quarterly. This is only a suggestion, and [more than likely] does not represent the views of the CATUG.

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Abed further suggested that the frequency of ZQA! increase from a quarterly to a monthly publication to support that end. Bob thought that would be the death of both ZQA! and himself!

I managed to give a brief QL demo, fumbling my way through a show-and-tell of the excellent BI-COL program (authored by Mike Padlipsky and Peter Hale) for both John and Nazir [those 2068 people have absolutely no interest in non-2068 matters in our group].

This was of special interest to John since he is the editor for two other newsletters, and has been using the more traditional cut-and-paste method. Nazir recently needed bi-columnar output, and apparently resorted to the two-passes through the printer method.

The main point of the demo was to explain the undocumented trick of getting it to work more easily when creating a transient "_col" file for subsequent IMPORTation into Quill or other formatting program (details follow).

The one, major problem arises from the fact that there are probably three or four versions of the program floating around out there (CATUG has an early one; T/SNUG has the version from the SNUG PDL disk, QUANTA may have one; and of course, NESQLUG has one).

Unfortunately, neither Peter nor Mike saw fit to include a version number in the REMarks, so I suggest that anyone having problems with using the program try to get a copy of the program from the NESQLUG library disk as this version does not seem to have problems with the creation of transient "_col" files.

If you have previously gotten a copy of the CATUG library disk, and don't have a copy of the NESQLUG disk, then send a disk and return postage [or, one dollar and no disk (specifying disk size)] to me and I will

send you a copy of the program from the NESQLUG disk [better yet, if you are a QL user, you might want to consider joining NESQLUG and tapping their resource of QL PD material].

HAPPY TRAILS, AND COMPUTING, TO YOU ...

Al Feng, Secretary
Chicago Area Timex Users Group

FROM THE EDITORS DISK

Are you readers out there getting, like me, needled by IBM (clone) and Macintosh owners who believe I too should switch from my ZX machine to one of theirs?

One of them visited me recently and asked why I was "still using an ANTIQUATED machine? Can your machine do things as fast as these newer machines?"

I took him to my TS2068 set-up. and powered it up, the third program was on the screen before the monitors CRT was bright enough to read. It was my terminal program. "I can go for a cup of coffee and return before your Macintosh is ready to use!"

I dialed the CATUG BBS. Showed him the fine screen response of MTERM2. I logged off and went into MSCRIPT, the word processor. Loaded in the download from MTERM2, made some changes, saved that, quit and went into VU-CALC, showed him the HELP file, loaded in the T/SNUG treasures report, quit that and went into VC2TAS.B1, made a TASWORD file out of the VU-CALC file, went into TASWORD and wrote TREASURERS REPORT on the top, saved it and sent the document to the printer. While it was being printed, I went into VU-FILE, loaded in Gazette and listed the file, quit VU-FILE and asked him, while the printer was still printing why he felt I should quit using my TS2068? (Hardly four minutes had gone by.)

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My friend is just one of gullible victims of companies

with better sales forces than product. He found that the APPLE IIc wouldn't do all he had been sold on and was now using an IBM clone in the appliance mode.

Sales has one assignment, to sell, and not always do they have the best product on the market to sell. Have you been watching PBS lately? They have been showing the history of computers as of late in a series called "The machine that changes the world." What they have shown us is (if you really study what they have stated) that inferior computers can displace better machines in the market place if a companies sales force is superior in that market place. IBM and APPLE are out there because of superior sales forces, not superior product.

Because we can find no one to fix our ailing DEC machine, our Motorola MicroComputer Club is now talking about replacing our present 1970s model BBS computer with a modern IBM clone running a canned software package. The first thing we found was that the IBM runs much slower! Second, it can only serve two users, our present machine serves eight!

Why are the better machines not in the homes of the masses? Ever hear of IMS? FHL? Eckert? Doesn't TIMEX make watches and Remington make shavers? If these outfits can't out-sell IBM or Apple in this country, they will have no market even with superior product and the product will disappear.

Really, folks, I am not telling you what machine is best for you. I am just saying I hope you do find yours and when you do, don't let someone tell you theirs is better and you should switch. I have been programming for 20 years and had MANY machines under my finger tips. I found what I like. I'm not easily swayed.

But if you're a functionally illiterate appliance operator

with lots of bucks, you'll love MAC. Mac was invented for people who wanted results without having to learn computers. On the other hand, if you're a masochistic child prodigy, you'll love MSDOS and UNIX type machines and may even learn to speak fluent C! But if you have a wife, child, cat or maybe even empty coal buckets at home, and therefore have a real thirst to feel like the BOSS, (without SYNTAX ERROR insults,) try telling a ZX computer what to do. (I'd bet Rodney Dangerfield would love a ZX machine.)

And don't tell me to switch, I've got 16 newsletters to get out this year!

--==GATOR==--

NEWS ITEMS

Word has reached us that Mel Nathenson has forwarded the SNUG Treasury to Paul Holmgren about a week or so ago. Paul did incur expenses for which he was never reimbursed. It is Pauls intention that the remainder of these funds will be forwarded to T/SNUG along with the names of the contributors so that these past members of SNUG can be brought into the T/SNUG fold. Many still do not know of T/SNUGs existence.

While the intent behind SNUG was good, implementation left something to be desired.

My recommendation is that Don Lambert use $600 or so of the money for a Canon Copier. If you have any thoughts on the matter, contact:

    B.ob Swoger, or
    A.bed Kahale, or
    D.on Lambert ...

[the "B.A.D" Boys of T/SNUG].

Al Feng, Secretary
Chicago Area Timex Users Group

INPUT/OUTPUT

Jay Shepard writes (on BBS):
L.B1 - Is V4.6L3 a test version of LogiCall? How does it differ from V4.4A3? The copy I got of V4.6L3 from Don Lambert was marked that version on the disc but had V4.4L3 in your opening statement of the LISTing. What gives? Saw no mention of anything about any changes in NTN. [*The latest is V4.8_3 This means that the version is 4.8, the _ is for the base disk operating system type, L is for LarKen, F is for Fast LarKen, O is for Oliger, A is for AERCO and R is for RAMEX. Each type has to call in a different FORMAT.B_ program. Finally the LarKen DOS prom version number is given, everyone should have 3 by now. Maybe Don is doing something on his own, beware!*]

AUTOSTART installation does not perform as described in your instructions - it's probably this darn AERCO style LKDOS abortion - when I key A at the program prompt to start the RAND 102 NMI save of L.B1 for AUTOSTART, I get 'error 430.1', but if I do a RAND 102:RUN from BASIC I get the AUTOSTART like it's supposed to perform but without the ease you had intended with your L.B1 line 460. [*You will note when you do that you will use 2 tracks instead of one. The problem is not AERCO/LarKen but rather the Jack Dohany EPROM Switch. It is slightly incompatible with LogiCall and other programs that use the DELETE keyword. Edit the lines in LogiCall 430 thru 450 changing the '?'s to DELETE, per Jack's instruction, in the TS2068 mode and the program will do what it was intended to do. There is no problem in the Spectrum mode. Don't forget to save it to all your disks overwriting the old L.B1 programs. I can never seem to get Lambert to do that.*]

Z-88 - I know your ads work because I got three leads from the Z-88 ad. [and let me take this opportunity to add that when something has been transacted, let me know to remove it from the board. Ed.] The last was a Nigel with an 800 number who use to be a dealer and is out of the business but has stock left and is sending a list with reduced prices. In looking for help and aids in running this jewel of a laptop I started with Mike Fink of Domino Cubes who had more trade paper ads than anyone including Sharps.

Unfortunately, I had ordered a manual he had written on the promise of the glowing review that E. P. Wannum (he of John Last-Name-Unknown fame) had written. Well, E. P. not only doesn't know my name, he doesn't know a decent manual.

Fink gets $30 for it but it's no where near the quality of Barry Carter's SMART modem SW manual that he only got $12.50 for in it's hey day. [*Ouch! There ought to ba a way to see it first, hummmm... Ed.*]

MSDOS/MSCRIPT - thought I'd try to read the PC discs Dave sent with this. HA! AERCO/LARKEN bites me again. I can't read the HELP file because selection of that brings up a white no raster screen with the disc rolling, can't BREAK it so no way to modify it to show through INK & PAPER if that's the solution. I can read a track with option 2 on the menu but have no idea how to use it without a manual or HELP page and I have no idea what QUICKSCAN the files does because the cursor movement "A, S, & X" makes no sense. I just want to cuss. [*I don't know what QUICKSCAN is but I will upload a working copy of MSDOS.Bx to fix your problem.*]

I have been pleased to watch my high school junior daughter type term papers using the three different WPs - TASWORD2, MSCRIPT and Wordmaster switching between them easily. If an air-headed female teenager can use these machines then they must be worth the trouble. [*I'd say that if she does all that then she has more*

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savvy than a Macintosh owner!]

Thanks so much, Bob, for taking time to read and try to resolve my problems and by the way, what's the toughest question you've ever had to answer? TIMEXON Jay [*Well, Jay, by a wide margin, the toughest question I've ever been confronted with began, "Do you take this woman...?"*]

GATOR's TWISTED PAIR

! ! ! R E M E M B E R ! ! ! We now have a 24 hour BBS and encourage you to exchange mail and contribute to the Download Section. Use it and have fun!

The board has become semi-private at this time. Please call Bob Swoger at 708/576-8068 for information as to how to log on.

Bob Swoger, SYSOP
Chicago Area Timex Users Group

ITEMS FOR SALE THROUGH THE CLUB

It has come to our attention that some LarKen Users are using something less than Version 3 firmware. The club will supply updated EPROMs, SYSTEM DISKS, and MANUALS for just $5 which includes shipping and handling, free if ordered with LogiCall or Spectrum ROM.
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If you are a LarKen LK-DOS owner and would like a SPECTRUM V2 kit for your system we will supply an EPROM, socket and 74HCT32 for $12 which includes shipping and handling. The install instructions are in your LarKen manual. We shall not be responsible for your install job. AERCO owners need only the SPECTRUM EPROM for $10 $10 is forwarded to LarKen.
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If you have a mismatch between you LarKen DOS EPROM and your Western Digital Controller chip, we will send you the correct one for free on behalf of our friends Rod Gowen of RMG and Larry Kenny of LarKen. You should be using L3 EPROMs with WD1770 controller chips or L3F

EPROMs with WD1772 controller chips. Check it out! Call in requests to ·Bob Swoger at W708-576-8068 H708-837-7957

SPECIAL DEALS AND BUYS

NAP_Ware (Nazir A. Pashtoon's new endeavor) announces the availability of all Timex or QL PAL (Programmable Array Logic) chips. If interested, call him evenings on 708-439-1679.
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LogiCall Integrated Software Ensemble easy operating system for LKDOS in both TS2068 and Spectrum modes includes LogiCall 4.8 TASWORD TWO V2.7, VU-CALC V1.3, VU-FILE and MTERM2 Drivers modified for LogiCall, DISKS.B1 TAPES.B1 steprt.B1 HEADER.BT (tape header reader by Nazir Pashtoon) FORMAT.B_ MOVE.BL and more all on 2 SSDD disks for $5. You must specify your LK-DOS EPROM version. If you already have a copy you are encouraged to distribute copies to other LarKen LK-DOS users for as you see by the price we are not in the business of making money on it, just making LarKen's LK-DOS even better!
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So you like to fly? The 747 Flight Simulator for Spectrum by Derek Ashton of DACC sold over 40K copies in EUROPE. Requires Spectrum Emulator. At this time supplied on LarKen SSDD disk only for $10 which goes to Derek Ashton, now working at MOTOROLA with Bob Swoger. Call in requests to Bob at W708-576-8068 H708-837-7957

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Want to try MS-DOS first before you switch? Try QLuMSi DOS, the MS-DOS SIMULATOR on your QL first.
QLuMSi (disk/specify) $15
================================

Try Al's Side-Kick on your QL. It is an Auxiliary Operating System (AOS) like LogiCall and can make your life on the QL a lot easier [you may never lust for MS-DOS again!]
QLUSTer (disk/specify) $10
CALL: Al Feng H(708) 971-0495

ARTICLES

VC2TAS.B1
by
Bob Swoger

In our last newsletter we published a LarKen/LogiCall utility that was requested by Marie Kendoll of Point Roberts, Washington to allow her to print VU-CALC files on her large printer. This time we have answered the request again with a little refinement, namely, creating a TASWORD document from a VU-CALC file. This allows editing of the VU-CALC print-out to add notes or heading or what ever before printing to a large printer.

The program asks you for the name of the VU-CALC file to load and then which column to print as the left-most column. You are permitted to enter columns 1 through 42 only. It then creates a TASWORD 2 document of nine columns and 50 rows from the VU-CALC document.

The new TASWORD 2 document will have the same name as the VU-CALC document but will end in .CT instead of .Cv . The VU-CALC document is left untouched.

```
10 REM  --== VC2TAS.B1 ==--
   WRITTEN BY ROBERT E. SWOGER
         1992 V1.2
20 REM Converts VU-CALC files
       to TASWORD 2 files.
30 CLEAR 33279: LET h=CODE "d"
: POKE 23658,0: POKE 23728,h
40 CLS : RANDOMIZE USR h: CAT
".Cv",
50 PRINT '"This program create
s a  9 column50 row Tasword 2 fi
le from a VU-CALC file that can
be printed ona large printer. Y
ou may selectthe left-most colum
n.    You maySave, Quit or selec
t drives 0-4."
60 INPUT "Name of file to conv
ert? "; LINE g$
70 IF g$>="0" AND g$<="4" THEN
RANDOMIZE USR h: GO TO VAL g$:
GO TO 40
80 IF g$="s" OR g$="S" THEN GO
TO 9990
90 IF g$="q" OR g$="Q" THEN GO
```

```
TO 9998
100 RANDOMIZE USR h: LOAD g$+".
Cv"CODE
110 IF PEEK 23728<>h THEN PAUSE
h: GO TO 30
120 REM R=VU-CALCs 50 ROWS
130 REM C=VU-CALCs 9 clmn/pg
140 REM I=Tasword doc start
150 REM J=VU-CALC doc start
160 REM S=First column to print
170 REM O=Offset to begin J
180 LET R=50
190 LET C=9
200 LET I=33280
210 LET J=34573
220 REM Determine start column
230 INPUT "Start with what colu
mn? ";S
240 IF S<1 OR S>42 THEN GO TO 2
30
250 LET O=(S-1)*7
260 LET J=J+O
270 REM MOVE VU-CALC TO TASWORD
280 PRINT #0;TAB 12; FLASH 1;"W
ORKING";
290 FOR K=1 TO R
300 FOR L=0 TO (7*C)
310 POKE (I+L),PEEK (J+L)
320 NEXT L
330 LET I=I+64
340 LET J=J+350
350 NEXT K
360 RANDOMIZE USR h: SAVE g$+".
CT"CODE 33280,((7*C)+1)*R
370 GO TO 9998
9992 RANDOMIZE USR h: SAVE "VC2T
AS.B1" LINE 30
9998 CLEAR 6E4: RANDOMIZE USR 10
0: LOAD "L.B1"
```

QL vs. TS-2068
by Al Feng

1984. For decades, the date represented the title of George Orwell's book forecasting a dreary future. APPLE COMPUTER, INC. exploited Orwell's vision of the "future" when they introduced the "revolutionary" 128K MACINTOSH computer. And, 1984 was the year that I bought my TS2068.

There are various reasons for using and/or owning a computer: applications, games, etc.

In 1984, I wasn't sure if it was time to "replace" my IBM SELECTRIC II with a word processor, but I figured it was time that I became computer literate. The TS-2068 had a price I couldn't refuse; and, I

thought that this would be good enough for getting my toes wet.

Well, if I had known that it would take the better part of eight months to accumulate all the components necessary for word processing [I was living in a small town in northern New Mexico at the time] I might have just gone ahead and bought an IBM PC! Good thing I wasn't in a real hurry to bang-away at a computer keyboard.

Despite the terrible "chiclet" keyboard is on the TS-2068, it didn't take me long to figure out that using TASWORD TWO was superior to my SELECTRIC for EDITing text, until I found that there was, essentially, a ten page limit (300 lines) to a document file.

What if a section (group of paragraphs) needed to be located on 'page 18' instead of 'page 32'? A lot of "fiddling" would have to be done to move the first block of text; and then, adjust the remainder of the text.

TASWORD was "okay" for drafts; but, it wasn't time to retire the SELECTRIC.

A copy of VU-CALC didn't prove to me that spreadsheet programs were superior to programmable calculators. I found VU-CALC to be so tedious that it made my HP-67 calculator seem easy to use!

Despite the realized software limitations, I found the 2068 to be an adequate tool -- good enough to consider acquiring a disk interface, et al, to overcome the long and tedious SAVEs and LOADs of programs and data. Fortunately (for me), the QL became available at the critical moment in time.

Well, it didn't take a UNIVAC to figure out that $400 for dual disk drives plus either a Millenia-K or AERCO interface was more expensive than $300 for a QL which came with dual 100K "microdrives" [of course, I had no idea what THEY were],

word processor, spreadsheet, database, and graphics package bundled with the computer.

Still, I weighed the pluses and minuses for some time of switching computers. After all, I "knew" how to use TASWORD.

TIME PASSES. I overcame the dread of learning the quirks of a new computer and how to use its software and I eventually ordered my first QL ...

The QL isn't a perfect computer. I hated the keyboard as soon as I put my fingers on it. On top of that, my copy of QUILL was corrupted (i.e., would not LOAD). A two week delay.

In the meantime, I was "forced" to explore the ABACUS spread sheet program. WOW. What a revelation! It was so much easier to use than either VU-CALC or my HP-67 that I probably would have been happy if this had been the only software program provided with the computer ... that is, if I hadn't bought it for its word processor program.

When my replacement copy of QUILL finally arrived, I was already aware of the fact that EDITing was performed with "different" key combinations (Why couldn't Psion have used the "same" combinations as TASWORD TWO had used?). QUILL (v2.1) is far from perfect, and I gather that it might have taken me three minutes to familiarize and become comfortable with the key combinations needed for EDITing after I had LOADed the program.

New key-caps, and I was off and running. Then, 20+ pages into a re-typing a document into a Quill_doc file and the program crashes! Bummer.

QUILL RULE 1: Don't scroll up through the text.

Despite some false starts, I was able to generate and save a

document of about 75 pages using the standard microdrive cartridges on my unexpanded QL. I was "happy" with QL. The non-GAME applications were clearly superior to anything I had used on the 2068.

MORE TIME PASSES. It seems that we, as a community, we are now in some disarray; and, the number of users is diminishing for various reasons. I was amazed when I found that a factionalism had developed (existed) in the community; but, sometimes, I'm not looking at the wall on which the hand-writing can be found. The SHARING of ideas and experience is what makes a community strong.

It would seem that 2068-users apparently have a (Z-80) chip on their shoulder (so to speak) with regard to the existence of the QL. Some seem to feel that the QL is the (in)direct reason for the demise of Sinclair Research Ltd ...

While these same die-hard 2068 people seem to embrace their affiliation to the SINCLAIR SPECTRUM via add-on ROMs, they ignore the fact that their beloved TS-2068 is probably as much an affront to the "real" SPECTRUM user as the QL is to the 2068 die-hard [I've NEVER heard of any SPECTRUM owner inserting a 2068 ROM into his SPECTRUM!].

THE BIG IF. If Uncle Clive had just stayed-the-course, stuck to what (t)he(y) knew ... If he just had NOT ventured off to un-charted territory with a "new" chip, he probably would not have been so bold as to try and build an electric car! Pandora's Box, indeed.

Some of these exclusionists will describe the many wonderful games they have for their 2068 and lament that "If they had only had a SPECTRUM/2068 emulator for the QL, I would have bought one five years ago!" Right.

Some 2068 users like to point

to the Z-88 as "proof" that the Z-80 is a viable chip. But, if they think that there is any-thing similar between the SPECTRUM/2068 and the Z-88 other than the Z-80 processor, then they should take another look.

Regardless of copyrights and patents, Uncle Clive would have abandoned the SPECTRUM-based operating system due to limita-tions. More important than a worrying about the never-to-be SPECTRUM emulator for the QL, someone should be working on a Z-88 emulator for 2068!

The QL isn't perfect. I use TurboQuill+ rather than "plain" QUILL; and whenever possible, I have replaced the other Psion programs with later versions. I've added memory and disk drives; my QL's black-brick has been replaced with a "real" power supply; and, the JSU ROM has been replaced with the MINERVA ROM (v1.66) upgrade. The QL could still use a better keyboard; and, the ABC-designed interface will hopefully be available someday from one of our domestic vendors.

The QL may never be perfect. For me, though, the QL has fewer hardware and software failings than the 2068. If one doesn't find the 2068 hardware or software limiting, then the 2068 is certainly an adequate computer. If playing GAMES is an important function of the computer, the 2068 (SPECTRUM) is indeed a better machine than a QL. No doubt about it. [There, Bob, are you happy?!? I've said some "nice" things about the 2068.]

TIME PASSES ...

∿∿∿∿   ADS   ∿∿∿∿

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WANTED:                    920303
%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%
%   SERIAL TO PARALLEL PRINTER %
%      CABLE (QL?) USED         %
%                               %
%   JOHN J. SHEPARD, III        %
%      281 - 130th ST.          %
%      OGDEN, IA 50212          %
%      (515) 846-6378           %
%      HAVE ANS. MACHINE        %
%                               %
%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%
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FOR SALE: ON 920102
%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%
TS2068 WITH:
   SPECTRUM ROM SWITCH
   MECHANICAL KEYBOARD
   RESET SWITCH
   SPEAKER ON/OFF SWITCH
AMPEX COMPOSITE COLOR Monitor
JLO FDD System with:
   780K Disk Drive cased with:
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Centronic Printer Interface
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Wico Trackball
TS2050 modems (4)
EPROM cards one with Mterm II
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Timex and Spectrum commercial
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128K QL W/ MINERVA 1.66 ROM and
ENHANCED KEYBOARD $95
MIRACLE 512K EXPANDERAM (QL) ..
..........................$125
SPEEDSCREEN ROM (w/ RAM code on
1 mdv) $45
NUCLEON (2 mdv) $15
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%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%
%   ALL ABOVE ITEMS: $250   %
%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%
%   ALL PRICES NEGOTIABLE   %
%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%
CALL: Al Feng H(708) 971-0495

WANTED: ON 911122
%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%
Trump Card or other memory
expansion and/or disk inter-
face for the QL.
D. G. Smith, R.415 Stone St.,
Johnstown, PA 15906.

FOR SALE: ON 911025
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FOR SALE: TIMEX 2068, excellent
comdition, $65.00. Oliger disk
interface,   controler   and
expansion board with manual,
$11.00. Both for $165.00.
D. G. Smith, R.415 Stone St.,
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I have a Sinclair ZX81 with
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modem. I also have a TS2068
with modem,   printer,   and
Spectrum cartridge, along with
a dozen old programs from
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both machines. Both are in
working order and excellent
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FOR SALE: ON 911010
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Joysticks $10
The whole package with software
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       1 MEGABYTE TOTAL
     $15/ea or $50 for all 4
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CM-8 COLOR MONITOR W/PLATFORM
SMITH CORONA TP-1 PRINTER
JOYSTICK AND 1 DOZ BLANK DISKS
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 !!
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 ##   *##*
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 ###   ####   ###
 ###   ####   ###
 ####   ####   *###*
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##########*########## ########
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CHICAGO AREA TIMEX USERS GROUP

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## BY
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